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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DRAFT (SEPT 2000) - POLICY STATEMENT NO. 14

MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS ON CALM MANAGED LANDS AND WATERS

POLICY BASE

Environmental weeds are plants that adversely affect the integrity, conservation value or biodiversity of natural ecosystems. Competition from weeds can be a major process affecting threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities. The Department has responsibility for the conservation and protection of flora and fauna on all State lands and waters under the provisions of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and more specifically on CALM managed lands under (s 33(1)(d) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). These responsibilities are implemented into CALM activities through the provision of management plans under (s 56) of the CALM Act, or in cases where there is no management plan as a necessary operation under (s 33(3)(b) of the CALM Act.

The Department has responsibilities on CALM managed lands for control of plants that are "declared" under (s 39-41) of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* (ARRP Act), viz. "A Government department shall control declared plants and declared animals on and in relation to public land under its control". However, the *Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950* (APB Act) takes precedence over the ARRP Act to the limit of any inconsistency between the two Acts. Sections 22(1), (2) and (3) of the APB Act preserve the "rights, powers, authorities or duties of any Government department".

This is interpreted as allowing CALM, in carrying out its responsibilities under the ARRP Act, to reserve the right to decide priorities and the level of control in accordance with available funds.

OBJECTIVE

Achieve the safe, effective and coordinated management of environmental weeds particularly on CALM lands and waters, in accordance with established priorities and consistent with CALM conservation objectives.

POLICY

The Department will:

1. Utilise a strategic approach to environmental weed management based on the following four key activities. Defining the problem, developing a management plan, implementing the plan and monitoring and evaluating the plan.
2. Manage environmental weeds on CALM managed lands and waters using the following priorities.
 - Priority 1: Any weed impacting on critically endangered flora, fauna or ecological communities.
 - Priority 2: Any weed impacting on threatened flora, fauna or ecological communities, or areas of high conservation value.
 - Priority 3: Small infestations of weeds listed in the Environmental Weed Strategy for WA with an Environmental Weed Rating of high or moderate.
 - Priority 4: Any weed with an Environmental Weed Rating of high or any weed impacting on CALM values or activities. (ie. VRM, recreation, forest operations).
 - Priority 5: Any other weed with an Environmental Weed Rating.
3. Support and implement the recommendations of the Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia 1999 and support local, regional, State and national initiatives protecting natural ecosystems from the detrimental effects of weeds.

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4. Support legislative controls on the introduction into Western Australia of any potential weed species, and seek legislative powers for CALM to manage such plants already established in Western Australia, including on private land.
5. Support national controls on the introduction into Australia of any plant that is considered likely to become invasive of native ecosystems.
6. Provide funds on a continuing and priority basis for weed management.
7. Promote and sponsor research into the identification, distribution, biology, impact and control of environmental weeds.
8. Ensure staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to develop plans and undertake management and monitoring of environmental weeds in accordance with this policy statement.
9. Develop a coordinated and integrated approach to environmental weed management through:
 - Identifying and managing the process leading to weed invasion.
 - Developing an understanding of the biology and ecology of weed invasion.
 - Considering all available control methods based upon feasibility, cost-effectiveness and environmental efficacy.
 - Forging links with other State Government agencies, industry, local government and community.
10. Promote local species as alternatives to potential environmental weeds for rehabilitation, commercial and agricultural uses.
11. Heighten community awareness of the serious threat to native ecosystems posed by environmental weeds.
12. Ensure that information on identification, distribution and control methods of environmental weeds is widely accessible to CALM staff and other relevant land management agencies and community groups. Data will be made available using a variety of integrated and standardised information systems.

RELATED POLICIES/STRATEGIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the "Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia 1999" and Policy Statements;

- N° 9 (Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild).
- N° 10 (Rehabilitation of Disturbed Land).
- N° 15 (Community Involvement - public participation and volunteers).
- N° 27 (CALM's Role in Management of Vegetation in Rural Areas).
- N° 31 (Management of Reserves for the Conservation of Nature) and,
- N° 40 (Road Management).

CONTROL

Custodian – Director Nature Conservation.

Approved by Corporate Executive on2000

Review Date.....2005

Dr Wally Cox

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Distribution: Lists A, B, D, E and L